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Message Text

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47
ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 INT-05 PM-03 OES-03 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 /057 W
---------- 099112
R 281517Z FEB 75
FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000
INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, TGEN, MILI, UK, US, WZ
SUBJECT: SEISMIC RESEARCH OBSERVATION (SRO) PROGRAM

REFS: A. PRETORIA 0691; B. GABORONE 0252 C. LONDON 2908

1. GREEN AND PETERSON ARRIVED MBABANE FEB. 27 AND ACCOMPANIED BY CHARGE CALLED ON BHC LE TOCQ FEB. 28. PETERSON OUTLINED BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF USG WORLD-WIDE SEISMIC RESEARCH PROGRAMS, EXPLANING THAT FOREIGN STATIONS WERE OPERATED BY HOST ORGANIZATION WITH EQUIPMENT AND SUPPORT PROVIDED BY USG. DATA COLLECTED WERE UNCLASSIFIED AND SHARED WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. USG HAD RECENTLY DEVELOPED NEW EQUIPMENT IT HOPED TO INSTALL AT THIRTEEN OF THESE STATIONS AROUND THE WORLD, INCLUDING SWAZILAND. INSTALLATION WOULD INVOLVE DRILLING A BORE HOLE ABOUT 100 METERS DEEP AND INSERTING IN IT A SOPHISTICATED SEISMOGRAPHIC INSTRUMENT. IN RESPONSE TO LE TOCQ'S QUESTION, PETERSON SAID BORE HOLE COULD BE ANYWHERE ON SITE; PRECISE LOCATION WAS NOT IMPORTANT.

2. LE TOCQ SAID UKG POSITION ON FUTURE OF CROWN ROYAL STATION STILL NOT FIRM (AS INDICATED REF C). UKG WAS CONSIDERING INSTALLATION OF A SEISMIC ARRAY THAT MIGHT
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REQUIRE MORE (OR DIFFERENT) LAND THAN UKG PRESENTLY

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LEASES. QUESTION OF SHIFTING THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CROWN ROYAL WITHIN THE UKG FROM ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY TO MINISTRY OF DEFENSE WAS ALSO UNRESOLVED. LE TOCQ SAID HE BELIEVED GOS MUST BE INFORMED BEFORE ANY DRILLING FOR BORE HOLE IS UNDERTAKEN, SINCE DRILLING WOULD TAKE PLACE IN AREA OF EXTENSIVE COAL DEPOSITS AND IS CERTAIN TO AROUSE SWAZI CURIOSITY. HOWEVER, HE RELUCTANT TO MAKE ANY APPROACH TO GOS UNTIL HE HAS CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS FROM LONDON ON UK PLANS RE LEASE TRANSFER AND SEISMIC ARRAY, AS WELL AS SRO PROJECT.

3. GREEN AND PETERSON DEPARTED MBABANE FOR JOHANNESBURG BY CAR FEB. 28. THEY DID NOT TALK WITH GOS OFFICIALS OR VISIT CROWN ROYAL STATION WHILE IN SWAZILAND.

4. COMMENT. GREEN/PETERSON VISIT TO MBABANE WAS USEFUL IN CLEARING THE AIR AND IN GIVING BOTH BHC AND CHARGE AN OPPORTUNITY TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT SRO PROGRAM. AT THE MOMENT, BALL APPEARS TO BE IN UK COURT. BHC LE TOCQ IS APPARENTLY READY TO DISCUSS UK/US PLANS FOR CROWN ROYAL WITH GOS AS SOON AS HE RECEIVES INSTRUCTIONS FROM LONDON. LANE

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